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**NEW ELECTRONIC SYSTEM TO CUT RED TAPE  
FOR DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS**

A new, easy to use, online system that will reduce the red tape and routine involved in assessing development applications was previewed today by the Development Assessment Forum (DAF) at its meeting in Brisbane.

Sue Holliday said the new paperless system, developed in Queensland in conjunction with DAF, is an example of how developers and local councils will be able to share information, lodge and track development applications in a secure online environment. It will demonstrate significant efficiencies by providing an electronic solution to the current paper-based processes.

Program activity through 2008 will see further versions released that will include greater system-to-system integration around eDA business involving state and local government.

“eDA mimics the process of a paper-based development assessment, while greatly reducing the red tape and routine involved. It will enable information to be passed to relevant referral agencies without having to send it individually in hard copy,” Ms Holliday said.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) recently noted that jurisdictions have agreed all new tender specifications for electronic development assessment software purchased by Commonwealth, State, Territory and Local Government from 1 July 2007 will incorporate this National Communication Protocol for transferring development application information electronically.

Ms Holliday added that DAF has developed a leading practice model for improved planning legislative systems.

“The model provides a blueprint for jurisdictions enabling a simpler, more effective approach to development assessment. This is achieved through the definition of ten leading practices that a development assessment system should exhibit” she said.

The Development Assessment Forum is an independent body established to promote best practice improvements to development assessment procedures in each jurisdiction of Australia. DAF aims to lead, reform and harmonise development assessment systems across Australia.

For more information about DAF and the DAF Leading Practice Model for Development Assessment, please see [www.daf.gov.au](http://www.daf.gov.au)

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